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Identical letters dated 23 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters in this connection, the most recent of which were the identical letters dated 17 August 2017 (S/2017/717), concerning the war crimes and crimes against humanity being perpetrated against innocent Syrian civilians by the "international coalition" led by the United States of America, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

Warplanes of the "international coalition" led by the United States of America have added a new massacre to their criminal record, which is already replete with attacks on civilians and infrastructure. On Tuesday, 22 August 2017, vicious bombing of and successive attacks against densely populated civilian residential areas in the city of Raqqah killed 78 civilians and injured dozens of others, most of them women and children, and caused massive destruction of infrastructure and public and private property in the targeted areas.

United States and "coalition" aircraft persist in attacking Syrian civilians, including women and children, and in destroying infrastructure and cutting off vital lifelines to densely populated civilian areas. Internationally prohibited white phosphorus bombs are being used in these attacks, in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments. Such behaviour demonstrates that successive United States administrations continue to subscribe to the law of the jungle, in contravention of the duties of the United States as a member of the Security Council, which is meant to be dedicated to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its condemnation of the crimes being committed by the "international coalition", which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, and once again calls on the States in whose name those crimes are being committed to withdraw from that coalition and distance themselves from its crimes, especially now that it has become clear that the coalition is performing a destructive role that is opposed to its declared objectives.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also reminds the Security Council of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and calls on it to implement its resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, notably resolution 2253 (2015), and act immediately to prevent the coalition from committing further crimes against innocent civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.